



STATE OF VERMONT
Department of Education
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Vermont Elementary Teachers Nominated for Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching

2008 Presidential Award State Finalists
National Awardee to be Announced in Spring 2009 in Washington, DC

MONTPELIER – Three Vermont elementary teachers have been nominated in science for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST), the nation's highest honor for science teachers, the department announced today.

Phyllis Wiggins, a second grade teacher at Barre Town Middle & Elementary School, Sarah Woodhead, a third grade teacher from the Pomfret School, and Christa Duthie-Fox, a fifth/sixth grade teacher at Charlotte Central School are recipients of this state level honor.

To win at the state level, these teachers demonstrated their excellence by completing a rigorous application process that includes a video of their classroom instruction and analysis of the effectiveness of a lesson. The 2008 Presidential Awardees teach in grades kindergarten through sixth. Next year's award will honor middle and high school teachers.

Established by Congress in 1983, and administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation, the PAEMST program identifies outstanding mathematics and science teachers from each of the 50 states and four U.S. jurisdictions. Each state and jurisdiction can select up to three mathematics and three science teachers as state finalists. National awardees are then selected from this finalist group. Recipients of the national 2008 Presidential Awards will be announced during a week of celebratory events this spring in Washington, D.C.

Vermont typically recommends state level winners who are highly qualified to receive the award at the national level. This year is no different. Gail Hall, the PAEMST Coordinator at the Department of Education, enthusiastically explains, "We are pleased that teachers of such high caliber are being recognized from the many outstanding K-6 teachers of science in Vermont."

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